

# FLIGHT JACKET

Vol. 7, No. 19

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

May 20, 2005

## MALS-16 named top support squadron

Story by Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

The world-renowned insignia of the United States Marine Corps is the eagle, globe and anchor. It symbolizes distant service under the American eagle by air, land and sea - representing our nation's interests "in every clime and place."

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 16, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, spent much of fiscal year 2004 serving the country admirably, highlighted by the squadron's deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. As a result of their performance, the squadron was named the 2004 Marine Corps Aviation Association Marion Carl Award winner for exceptional achievement by a Marine air wing ground unit.

"I am very happy about winning the award, because I personally know the Marines and Sailors put in a lot of work. That is the bottom line - I have never seen people work harder to get things done," said Maj. James B. Whitlock, operations officer, MALS-16. "What we did is something that hasn't been accomplished before by an aviation logistics squadron, as far as I know."

The squadron was forced to come together based on the Marines' experience and knowledge to get their mission of support-

ing up to 213 aircraft - including every type of aircraft in the Corps' inventory, according to Whitlock, a Roswell, Ga., native.

"The deployment to Iraq made me realize what we're actually capable of doing. Before, I knew on paper what we were capable of doing," Whitlock said. "The bottom line is junior Marines turning wrenches and fixing gear, senior Marines guiding and directing and medical staff keeping us together got the job done, but by no means was it easy."

The road through 2004 was rough for the squadron, but was smoothed by the operating procedures already in place and followed by the Marines in the various sections of the unit, according to Staff Sgt. David M. Cox, ground safety manager, MALS-16.

"We had about 800 Marines spread between Al Asad, (Iraq), Miramar and Afghanistan, along with three Marine expeditionary units. Even with all the operations going on, we never missed a beat," said Cox, a St. Louis native. "These outstanding Marines did what they're supposed to do. The programs were in place, leadership supported them and they did the job."

"It was the small unit leadership, though, that made sure the job got done. The sergeants and corporals set the standards for the new Marines."



**Gunnery Sgt. Kevin O. Jones, assistant ordnance noncommissioned officer-in-charge, and Staff Sgt. Luke T. Somerville, station weapons NCOIC, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 16, Marine Aircraft Squadron 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, remove the cover from an AGM-65E Maverick missile, June 18, 2004, at Al Asad, Iraq. MALS-16 supplied all MAG-16 aircraft with ordnance in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew T. Rainey**

Along with the leadership and job skills provided by Marines across the squadron's ranks, there were a couple additional key elements involved with the squadron's success in 2004.

"I was in Italy and communication was paramount. I was getting calls from Iraq everyday for parts, then I would call back here for logistics issues, parts issues," said Master Sgt. Matthew J. Foster, production control chief, MALS-16. "Being that far away from each other, your tendency is to lose communication, stay in your own little world, and you can't do that. Everyone had

the same mission to accomplish, and communication allows everyone to know what the other is thinking."

Foster added, even though the squadron earned the award by accomplishing their mission, they had a lot of help along the way.

"We sent a message out to the world asking, 'can you help us?' And the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing stepped up in a big way, along with the Marines over at Marine Aircraft Group 11," said Foster, an Escondido, Calif., native. "I feel proud. All of us did a great job to make it happen."

## Operation Matador ends, Marines monitor area

Story by Jim Garamone, compiled from Multinational Force Iraq news releases

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - Operation Matador is over, Marine officials in Iraq announced May 14.

The seven-day operation concentrated on cities near the Iraqi border with Syria. Pentagon officials said many foreign fighters allied with terrorist mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi slip across the porous Syrian-Iraqi border.

The operation concentrated on the Euphrates River cities of Karabilah, Ramana and Ubaydi, a Marine statement said.

Nine Marines assigned to Regimental Combat Team 2 died during the operation. Forty more were wounded. The statement said the joint-service team's Marines, Soldiers and Sailors "killed more than 125 terrorists, wounding many others and detaining 39 terror-

ists of intelligence value."

Coalition officials were concerned about the region even before fighting in Fallujah in November. The area - part of Iraq's Al Anbar Province - is laced with smuggling routes that go back generations.

Tribal loyalties extend on both sides of the border, and families often control smuggling "territory" and charge for services, said Pentagon officials.

Marine officials said terrorists use the area as a staging ground for attacks against Iraqi and coalition targets in Ramadi, Fallujah, Baghdad and Mosul.

The operation began May 7, and Marines killed about 70 terrorists in the first 24-hour period. "Operation Matador confirmed existing intelligence assessments focused on this region north of the Euphrates River, including knowledge of numerous cave complexes in the nearby escarpment," the Marine statement said.

Servicemembers discovered numerous weapons caches containing machine guns, mortar rounds and rocket materials in towns along the Syrian border. "Six vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Devices and material used for making other Improvised Explosive Devices were also found," the statement said.

"Regimental Combat Team 2 started and ended this operation as planned, accomplished its mission and secured all objectives," said Maj. Gen. Richard A. Huck, 2nd Marine Division commander, quoted in the statement. "Coalition and Iraqi security forces will return again to this area in the future."

In the northern part of Iraq, soldiers of 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division's Stryker Brigade Combat Team seized a large weapons cache May 12 during a cordon-and-search operation southwest of Qayyarah. The cache included 16 rocket-propelled grenade rounds, a mortar round, one case of fuses, two bags of charges, one pound of C-4 explosives and a case of ammunition.

## Inside

Weekend forecast from Miramar's weather station



74°/57°  
Today



74°/58°  
Saturday



74°/57°  
Sunday

**ARFF:  
Trial  
by fire  
pg 6**



**MAG 11  
hits road to  
East Miramar  
pg 8**





# USNA accepting Marine applicants

Story compiled by MCAS Miramar CPAO

MCAS Miramar

Marine Administrative Message 181/05 has released information April 19 for Marines interested in attending the United States Naval Academy.

The U.S. Naval Academy is accepting applications from enlisted active duty and reserve Marines.

Marines must submit applications with the recommendation of their commanding officer and must be forwarded to the superintendent, Nominations and Appointments Office at the U.S. Naval Academy by Jan. 31, 2006. The request must be endorsed by the Marine's commanding officer.

Although the submission deadline is Jan. 31, 2006, early applications provide the opportunity for early offers of appointment to the USNA or early selection to the Naval Academy Preparatory School. Pre-applications can be submitted via the Web by visiting <http://www.usna.edu/admissions/pre-application>.

All applicants must contact their base education office for counseling regarding benefits if selected for USNA or NAPS. Further inquiries regarding continued eligibility of education benefits may be directed to Headquarters Marine Corps voluntary education branch at (703) 784-9550.

Applicants must request and complete the required

forms for admission to the USNA. Those applicants not offered an appointment to the USNA will be considered for NAPS if they are eligible and request NAPS in their original application letter.

Basic requirements for admission to the Naval Academy are:

- \* Good moral character.
- \* Must be at least 17 years of age and not have reached age 23 on July 1 of the year they would enter the academy.
- \* Must be unmarried, not pregnant and have no family members for which they are legally responsible.
- \* Must be a United States citizen.

A combined score of 1050 is required on the Scholastic Aptitude Test, with a minimum score of 550 in math and 500 in verbal. A combined score of 46 is required on the American College Test with a minimum score of 24 in math and 22 in verbal. It is highly recommended that applicants have qualifying SAT or ACT scores before applying.

For more information concerning the program, call (410) 293-1000, or visit the Naval Academy's Web site at <http://www.usna.edu>.

## Remembering those who came before

Commentary by Staff Sgt. Maria C. Brookman

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Marines are given the distinct honor of serving their nation in often-thankless positions that sometimes take precedence over their personal comforts.

Admittedly, these situations can be more frustrating than gratifying, and it can lead one to wonder why servicemembers shoulder these burdens without so much as a pat on the back or a thank you from anyone other than their chain of command.

Regardless, the Marines continue on with their tasks, marching forward, packs strapped tightly to their backs.

Once their tours of duty end, either by end of active service or retirement, and the shining regalia is hung up for the last time, why does the appreciation for their valor and hard work cease?

Established programs to demonstrate appreciation for those who served before us are rare.

There is no mystery hotline to dial into, and there is no booth at the food court that advertises a "Sign up now to give your thanks!" for active-duty participants.

There are nevertheless, subtle occasions for Marines to take notice of the men and women

who paid for the freedoms they enjoy today.

San Diego is very fortunate to have a military-friendly community, and in this area reside the veterans, who are, more often than not, forgotten and deserve recognition and respect from their active-duty counterparts.

It's easy to identify proceedings, such as a San Diego Padres Opening Day color guard detail or a request for a combat veteran speaking engagement to a crowd of patriots, as paying the public it's just due. But why are the less publicized events that are without media cameras or confetti and streamers less important?

The Marine Corps should not have to scrounge for volunteers for a ceremony to honor Prisoners Of War/Missing In Action. Accepting an invitation from a nursing home filled with veterans who merely want to shake a Marine's hand doesn't have to be tantamount to a root canal. Listening to a retiree tell a five-minute tale of his or her own experiences during WWII, Korea or Vietnam shouldn't be equated to a 30-mile trek across the Mojave Desert.

While operational commitment is foremost on the minds of leaders, it's

## Welcome to Miramar...



Foreign military attaché officers from more than 30 different countries gather near an F/A-18D Hornet May 17 during their visit to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. During their time at the air station, the officers received a brief about the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, along with their missions and capabilities. After the briefing the officers were given an opportunity to examine the Hornet and a CH-53E Super Stallion while the pilot of each aircraft spoke of its role in the Marine Corps. Photo by Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich

## MIRAMARKS

"What do the contributions and sacrifices of veterans mean to you?"



**CPL. ALEJANDRO R. ESPINOZA**

Crash, Fire and Rescue driver  
H&HS

"They mean the world to me. Everything we are, we've done and become as a military is because of them."

**LANCE CPL. ADRIAN D. OWEN**  
Hydraulic maintenance technician  
VMFAT-101

"They paved the way for me to be here. I think about the people who died before I got here. They made life what it is today."



**CPL. SCOTT P. BERRY**

Armorer  
MAG-11

"They gave their lives so the rest of us can have a better future. It just shows how much some people love this country."



**MAJ. GEN. KEITH J. STALDER**  
Commanding General  
3rd Marine Aircraft Wing



**BRIG. GEN. CARL B. JENSEN**  
Commander MCABWA  
Commanding General  
MCAS Miramar

## FLIGHT JACKET

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Exactly 38 years following the deaths of three Marines and one Sailor killed during a reconnaissance patrol May 10, 1967 in the Quang Tri Province of South Vietnam, three steel caskets containing positively identified remains and folded green blankets were recently laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va., during a burial ceremony. Atop the blankets lay pressed dress uniforms laid out with each servicemember's ribbons and decorations. *Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Kent Flora*

# Final resting place...

## Servicemen laid to rest 38 years later

Story by Gunnery Sgt. Kent Flora

Marine Barracks 8th & I Public Affairs chief

ARLINGTON, Va. — Gone, but never forgotten. Three Marines and one Navy corpsman on a reconnaissance mission deep in the jungles of Vietnam have finally come home. The homecoming puts a close on the chapter of four lives cut short the night of May 10, 1967.

The families of 2nd Lt. Heinz Ahlmeyer Jr., Sgt. James N. Tycz, Petty Officer 3rd Class Malcolm T. Miller and Lance Cpl. Samuel A. Sharp Jr. can finally put an end to the long wait and wipe away the tears of years gone by.

Arlington National Cemetery, the final resting place for America's honored heroes, was the backdrop to the history-making event that saw hundreds of friends, servicemembers and families pay tribute to the men of Company A, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, who gave the ultimate sacrifice 38 years ago.

Flags were presented to family members during the interment ceremony. Irene Healea, sister to Ahlmeyer, originally from Pearl River, N.Y.; Phillip Tycz, brother to Tycz,

originally from Milwaukee; Sandra Keheley, sister to Miller, originally from Tampa, Fla.; and Nellie Irene Sharp, mother of Sharp, originally from San Jose, Calif., all accepted flags on behalf of their families. Sharp was buried Saturday in San Jose and was honored at the ceremony.

The four men were part of a reconnaissance patrol operating near the Marine Base at Khe Shan, Vietnam, and came under enemy attack in the very early morning hours of May 10 while occupying a defensive position. The four were killed at the onset of the engagement, but due to hostile fire, their bodies could not be recovered when the rest of the patrol was extracted by helicopter later that morning.

The Marines of the Corps' "Oldest Post" were entrusted with the ceremonial duty of laying their brothers to rest. The Body Bearers of Company B here, have the duty of burials at ANC.

The 28th Commandant of the Marine Corps General Paul X. Kelley escorted the funeral procession as it wound its way from the transfer point at Patterson Circle to the gravesite in Section 60 of the cemetery.

"It is truly an honor to be here today and be part of this

event," said the former CMC, who was presented one of the flags during the graveside ceremony.

Former commanding officer of 1st Force Reconnaissance Battalion and current Marine Barracks Washington executive officer, Lt. Col. A.J. Copp, said the ceremony was significant because not only did it bring closure to the families and teammates of these heroic servicemen, but it also demonstrated the resolve of the government in recovering MIAs.

"I can think of no greater honor than attending this interment, particularly after commanding reconnaissance Marines in combat myself," Copp said. "With General Kelley's presence, as well as the former 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion veterans and friends of the Corps, it truly was a significant event and profound reinforcement of our Corps' motto — Semper Fidelis."

Even with the tears shed by fellow Marines who served with the men in the Quang Tri Province of South Vietnam, there is relief — relief that their brothers have returned home.

"We all went over together. We all fought, and now they have come home too," said Art Foss, President of Chapter 3 (Dumfries, Va.), Rolling Thunder. "We're not going to rest until we all come home."

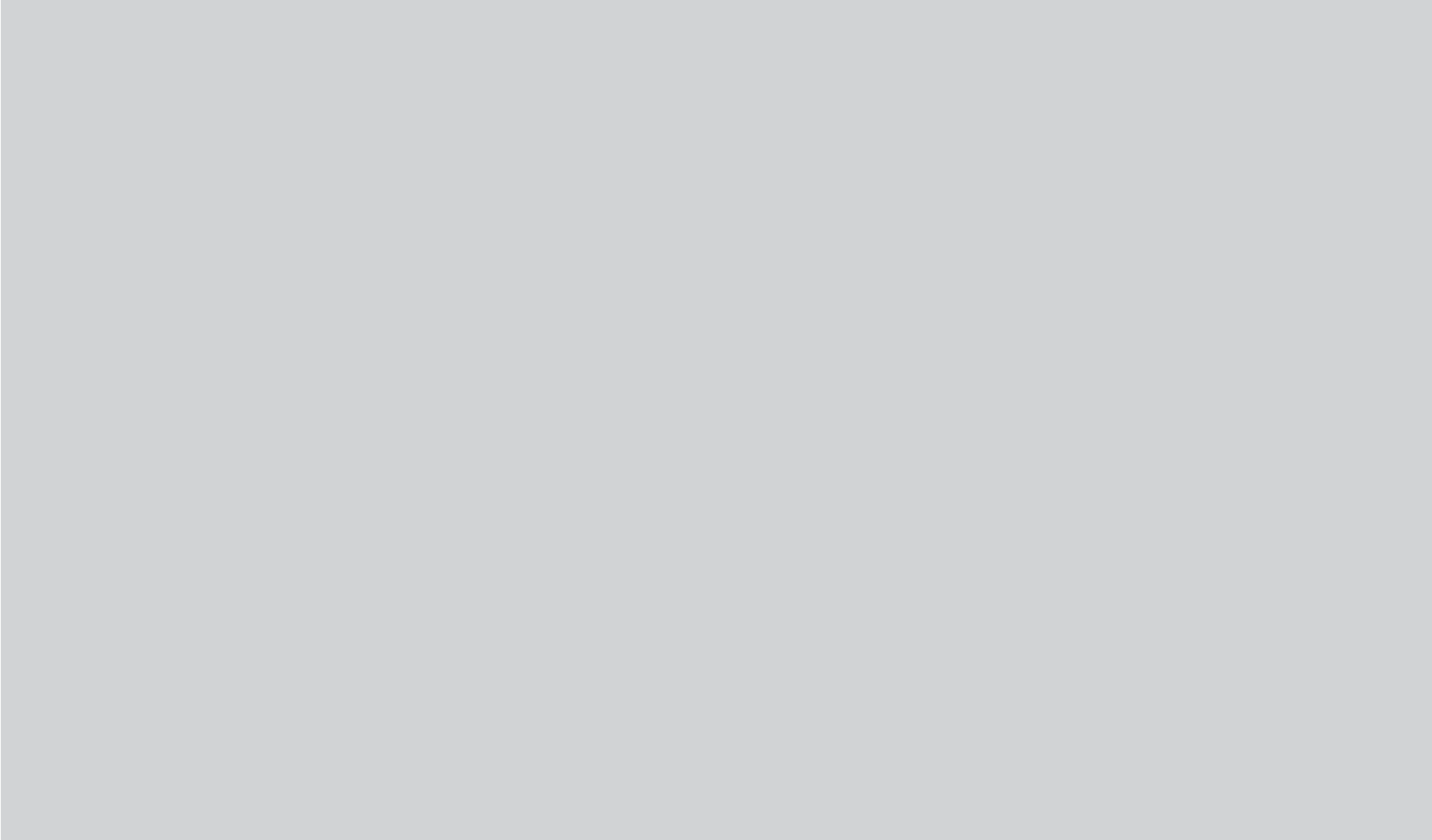
Rolling Thunder is an organization that publicizes the issues concerning POWs and MIAs. Members educate the public of the many American prisoners of war that were left behind in all past wars. They help correct the past and protect the future veterans from being left behind should they become prisoners of war or missing in action.

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES!



MCAS Miramar needs servicemembers from all ranks, occupations, experiences, backgrounds and upbringings to participate in the Guest Speaker Program. If you are interested, call the Community Relations Department at (858) 577-4333.

*An appreciative audience awaits*





# Marine wife earns volunteer of year

Story by Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

“It is one of the most beautiful compensations of life, that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson.

In the same spirit of the literary giant’s words, the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Navy Marine Corps Relief Society recognized one of their own, Katie Steward, with the 2004 Volunteer of the Year Award May 13.

“I have been able to accomplish a lot through the help of others, and the least I can do is help in any way I can,” said the publicity chairman for the Miramar Chapter of the relief society and wife of Staff Sgt. Charles B. Steward.

“I love being a part of NMCRS. I have been there over a year, and the people have been extraordinary to me. They have given me a lot of support for what I do.”

Steward handles everything from

writing articles and taking photographs of relief society functions, to dealing with potential contributors, according to Ann Evans, director of the air station relief society.

“Katie has been the most proactive volunteer we have ever had in the position,” she said. “She has taken the initiative to write articles and put together an internal newsletter that goes out to our

volunteers and a second newsletter for all the commands here.

“We’re hoping that it reaches the younger Marines, so

they know better what we offer, in addition to recognizing our contributors,” she added.

The publicity part of the program was not as well developed as the headquarters would have liked it to be, according to Evans.

“There has been increased attention and interest in the military after 9/11 and since the operations in Iraq. So our publicity department has become increasingly important,” Evans said.

**“I love being a part of NMCRS. I have been there over a year, and the people have been extraordinary to me. They have given me a lot of support for what I do.”**

**Katie Steward**  
**Publicity chairman**  
**Miramar Navy Marine Corps Relief Society**



Brigadier Gen. Carl B. Jensen, commander, Marine Corps Bases Western Area, (left), Katie Steward (center) and Ann Evans, director, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, stand together after Steward was awarded the MCAS Miramar NMCRS 2004 Volunteer of the Year Award May 13. Steward is the publicity chairman for the society. Her duties include photography of society functions, writing articles for internal and external publications and handling of potential relief society contributors. Steward, whose husband Staff Sgt. Charles B. Steward is deployed with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, also volunteers as a mentor for the Marine Corps Family Team Building’s Lifestyle, Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills program, as well as at a San Diego public library. *Photo illustration by Miramar CPAO*

“Developing publicity about (the society) has been key in letting our contributors and constituency know about our services,” Evans added.

In addition to her time at the relief society, Steward volunteers as a mentor for the Marine Corps Family Team Building’s Lifestyle, Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills program, as well as at a San Diego public library.

Reacting to the reward for her dedicated service, Steward said, “I’m really happy about receiving the award. I know other people were deserving too. It was quite a shock.

“Working at the society has helped me out while my husband is deployed with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit. I have made a lot of friends there who help support me while he’s gone.”

## Gear found in Belleau Wood...



Local resident and historian Gilles Lagin (left), who has studied the battle of Belleau Wood for more than 30 years, shows Master Gunnery Sgt. David J. Bumgardner, operations chief, Marine Forces Europe, a German gas mask found next to the remains he discovered on a recent battlefield study. Lagin has trodded the grounds of this hallow site since childhood. On this day of research, the group was following the footsteps of William Eugene Lee and actions of the 2d Battalion, 5th Marines. Lee, who passed away in the summer of 2004 at the age of 105, was the oldest Marine who fought in the Battle of Belleau Wood. Although not complete, remains from at least three soldiers were discovered in all. Two sets of remains were of German soldiers. *Photo by Master Sgt. Phil Mehringer*

# RA offers Marines valuable opportunities

Story by Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Marines seeking extra points toward promotion or just wanting to make an impact in their hometowns may have the option of returning to the location where their Marine Corps career began.

Marines can request permission to volunteer for Recruiter's Assistance for up to 30 days, and recently one Miramar Marine took the Corps up on the offer to aid the recruiting effort.

"I went on Recruiter's Assistance first and foremost for the promotion points. I was tired of being a lance corporal," said Lance Cpl. Brandon D. Dozier, disbursing clerk, Finance Section, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. "I talked with my staff noncommissioned officer to get permission."

After receiving consent from his command, Dozier phoned his hometown recruiter to process the necessary paperwork.

The disbursing clerk soon found that there were more advantages to being a recruiter's assistant than just promotion points.

"Being at home has plenty of perks, like seeing the family, but I wasn't used to dealing with the Marine Corps and family at the same time. I had not been home since I was 21-years-old, and it was great being able to go out to all the clubs I was never able to get into before."

According to Dozier, his time at home was not all fun and games and a lot of work was involved in assisting the recruiters with their mission.

"When I first got there, I would go out by myself

to the malls to find people slightly interested in the Corps, get their names for referrals so the recruiters could follow up with them and see if the Marine Corps is something they want to do," Dozier said. "Marines on Recruiter's Assistance can sometimes relate to them better than a recruiter, because they often are in the same age group. So I would sit in on interviews and answer their questions."

Along with actively canvassing the Atlanta area for potential Marines, Dozier had additional duties that contributed to the recruiting mission.

"I drove recruits around, helped them in passing the required tests, along with leading recruits in the Delayed Entry Program through their physical fitness training," Dozier said.

"For example, one kid kept failing the run portion of the Physical Fitness Test, so I took him out running. It was hot. I started talking to him to take his mind off of it. We ended up running 4.5 miles, and he didn't even know it.

"That was probably the best part (of being a recruiter assistant); the kids looking up to you for being a Marine," he added.

After spending 14 days home in Atlanta, Dozier had important advice for his fellow Marines.

"If you want a quick 100 points for promotion, go on Recruiter's Assistance - make the Marine Corps work for you," Dozier said. "Also, if you think that the Marine Corps has helped you get out of a rough situation, and you want to pass that on to other people, go on Recruiter's Assistance and make it a personal thing."



**Lance Cpl. Brandon D. Dozier stands on the sidewalk adjacent to the Finance Office May 17 at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. Recently, Dozier returned from 14 days of Recruiter's Assistance duty in his hometown of Atlanta. Marines who wish to earn up to 100 points toward promotion can request to go on Recruiter's Assistance for up to 30 days. Dozier is a disbursing clerk with the finance section, MCAS Miramar. Photo by Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich**





A safety fireman with Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, watches as a hand lineman and his backup sweep away the flames May 11 during a training exercise at Miramar. Safety is still the top concern during the training. Firefighters wear a three-layered suit to protect them from the unpredictable flames. *Photo by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke*

# Fighting fires: Marines battle infernos

Story by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke

*MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent*

Giant columns of flames swirled into the sky 50 feet above the Marines' heads as they pushed toward a burning, downed aircraft.

With the Miramar flightline as a backdrop May 11, the Marines of Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, trained to battle dangerous aircraft fuel blazes.

"We conduct training with ignited aircraft fuel spills every two weeks at least," said Sgt. Warren N. Anderson, crew chief, ARFF. "It is a live burn and uncontrolled. It helps you prepare by knowing how the fire will react when you do certain things."

The training also helps Marines new to the firefighting occupation get used to the

uncertainty of what a fire will do when it is uncontrolled, according to Anderson.

"It was definitely something new," said Lance Cpl. Joseph J. Burnside, hand lineman, ARFF. "I got a little hand line experience today. It was different compared to the fires we did at the fire academy. The fires we did at school were training fires and controlled. The ones we did today weren't controlled, so it is hard to tell what they will do."

As a hand lineman, a large part of Burnside's job is to clear a rescue path to burning aircraft while extending a pressurized hose attached to the rescue vehicle toward the source of the fire. Because the firefighters train with uncontrolled fires, safety is very important.

"Safety is always a key element when dealing with fire," said Anderson, a

Kelso, Wash., native. "There are two teams that go in, which are made of a hand lineman and a backup man. There will be a safetyman directly behind them, a safety in the truck and a man in the turret on the truck."

To further ensure safety, the firefighters wear a special suit to protect them from the flames and heat.

"The suit we wear is made up of three layers," said Anderson. "There is a thermal layer, a moisture layer and the outer shell. The face shield is gold reflective and, from personal experience, it definitely works. You can still get hot inside the suit, but it is not unbearable."

According the Lance Cpl. Robert A. Jackson, hand lineman, ARFF, the suit doesn't make the Marines invincible, so they must rely upon various tactics when dealing with the fire.

"You can still get burned through the suit," said Jackson, a Salem, Ore., native. "That is why it is so important for you to not rush into a fire. You need to take it slowly and push the fire away. That is the goal, to push the fire away from the burning aircraft."

"Our priority is to save lives. It is OK if the concrete is on fire away from the

aircraft but (not) near the aircraft," he added.

According to Jackson, training to fight infernos is essential, because a real fire can be extremely unpredictable and uncontrollable.

"You can talk about how you are going to fight a fire all you want," said Jackson, "but until you actually get in there and apply what you have been taught, there is a real big difference. The training is so important, because it helps you in real life to anticipate what the fire is going to do."

"We train with real fire to see how the flames are going to spread and how hot it will get. It shows you how dangerous it can actually be if there is an actual aircraft crash or a fuel spill. It is very important to have hands-on training for the whole fire department," he said.

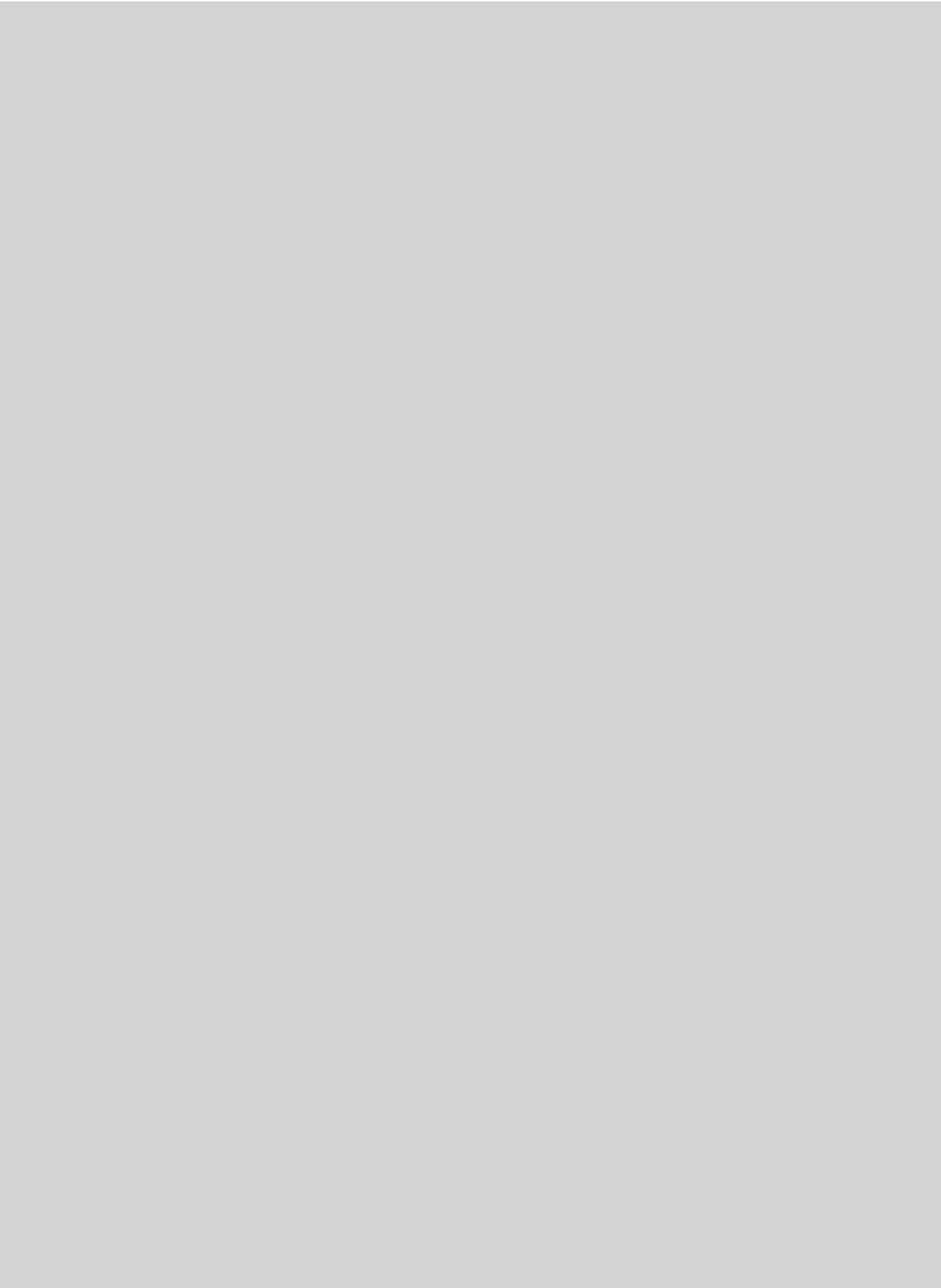
Although their training is significant, the mission of the fire-fighting Marines is a vital one.

"Our job is extremely important with the costs of the aircraft that we deal with and the pilot's depending on us," Anderson concluded. "Although plane crashes might not happen too often - which is a good thing - if something does happen, to not have us there would be catastrophic."



**Left: Marines with Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, fight against a wall of flames caused by ignited fuel May 11 during a training exercise at Miramar. The firefighters go through the intense training at least every two weeks against an uncontrolled blaze. Right: Marines from Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, extinguish a test fire May 11 during aircraft firefighting training at Miramar. The Marines ignite several gallons of an environmentally safe fuel inside a pit with an old section of an aircraft inside. Their job is to extinguish the flames as quickly and safely as possible. *Photos by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke***







# MAG-11 HQ completes 11-mile ‘nature walk’

Story by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke

*MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent*

The crisp morning air was filled with the chanting of Marines singing cadence, along with the beat of steady footsteps on hard tarmac, as they trudged 11 miles around the roads of Miramar.

The Marines of Headquarters Squadron, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, completed the hike May 13 in full gear, beginning at their headquarters building on MCAS Miramar and stretching into East Miramar before finally returning to the starting point.

“The main point of a hump is to strengthen that fundamental aspect of the Marine Corps where you have to watch out for that Marine in front of you, which sometimes you don’t always do when you’re in the work section,” said Cpl. Andrew A. Wilson, operations clerk, MAG-11. “We are doing this, in part, for field unit cohesion. It also helps keep morale up.”

Although unity is something instilled in Marines during boot camp, it needs to be practiced periodically to keep it sharp.

“I think the biggest reason for deciding to do this hump was to remind the Marines of esprit de corps,” said Gunnery Sgt. Fred R. Dirksen, Nuclear, Biological and Chemical section chief, MAG-11. “A lot of the time in the wing, the Marines get wrapped up in their jobs and give little thought to training. Whereas an infantry unit

will go out there and hump two or three times a month. It helps remind them about being a Marine.”

According to Gunnery Sgt. Rodney A. Dunn, first sergeant, Headquarters Squadron, MAG-11, the hump allowed the Marines to focus more on what the Corps is truly about.

“It not only gives Marines the chance to come together and build camaraderie, but it also gives the noncommissioned officers a chance to lead,” said Dunn. “Being out here gives them the chance to be the leader of the troops that they are supposed to be.”

However, the forced march also changes the way the other units and squadrons look at MAG-11, according to Dunn.

“The hump wakes the other squadrons and units up a little bit,” the Pulaski, Tenn., native said. “It makes them look around to see exactly what we are doing here. It also makes them think they should be doing something just a little bit more.”

Although influencing other squadrons and units was not their goal, the 11-mile hike’s impact was impressed upon the Marines.

“To complete something like this 11-mile hump makes you feel better about yourself and your unit,” concluded Wilson. “It’s not one of those things that you can just do all the time. Even though it is hardly ever seen at an air station, it is one of the most motivating things you can do.”



Marines from Headquarters Squadron, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, participate in an 11-mile forced march May 13 at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. The hump stretched from the MAG-11 headquarters building into East Miramar and back again. The hump took place to help strengthen unity, leadership and motivation. *Photo by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke*



**Above: Marines from Headquarters Squadron, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, participate in an 11-mile forced march May 13 at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. Right: Marines from Headquarters Squadron, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, complete an 11-mile conditioning hike May 13 at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. The trails they traversed covered several miles of tarmac, rough terrain and hills, giving them one of the most challenging routes possible. *Photos by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke***



Marines from Headquarters Squadron, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, complete an 11-mile trek May 13 at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in just over four hours. Beginning at 5 a.m. and finishing just after 9 a.m., the Marines marched round trip from the MAG-11 headquarters building to East Miramar before returning home. *Photo by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke*



# Victims of war in Iraq receive Patriot Bonds

Story by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

The war in Iraq has affected nearly everyone in one way or another and has left all too many missing something that can never be replaced.

The children of Capt. Paul C. Alaniz, pilot, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, and Staff Sgt. Dexter S. Kimble, flight mechanic, HMM-361, were a few of the many who became victims of the war against terrorism when it stole something that cannot be replaced — their fathers.

The children of the two Marines who died in a CH-53E Super Stallion crash Jan. 26, each received \$20,000 worth of Patriot

**“It isn’t going to bring their husbands and fathers back, but it does show that people out there really care - that they aren’t alone.”**

***Capt. Patrick S. Lindstrom  
casualty assistance calling officer, HMM-466***

Savings Bonds May 10 at Miramar to help show appreciation for their fathers’ service.

“The Patriot Bonds were given by the Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation,” said Gunnery Sgt. Jamie D. Burns, casualty assistance calling officer, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 466, MAG-16. “The bonds are issued in the childrens’ names. They are to be used for education, so when the child reaches college age, they can be cashed in for \$20,000 for each child.”

Although the Patriot Bonds are given with good intentions and accepted the same, nothing can make up for the loss.

“I don’t think anything - all the entitlements they get - can make up or do anything to offset the fact that they just lost their husbands and fathers,” said Capt. Patrick S. Lindstrom, CACO, HMM-466. “It is a nice thing that people are doing to help them out.

“It isn’t going to bring their husbands and fathers back, but it does show that

people out there really care - that they aren’t alone,” Lindstrom added. “It is really a great thing that people out there are willing to help others when they are down.”

According to Thelma I. Alaniz, the support of others has not only benefited her family but also helped her deal with the loss of her husband.

“I think the support, as far as the Marines around me and in the squadron, has been really helpful,” said Thelma. “All of the small things and gestures help out a great deal.”

As Lt. Col. Rich L. Caputo Jr., commanding officer, HMM-361, presented the Patriot Bonds to the two wives, he thanked them for their husbands’ service.

“We owe your husbands for their ultimate service,” Caputo concluded. “They gave their lives for this country.”

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not always a factor preventing units from participating in programs that show support for servicemembers who came before us.

When Marine Corps Air Station Miramar is tasked with a color guard detail, there is usually only one unit aboard station that has available members. While this unit probably has the most experienced and best-trained servicemembers, why aren’t other shops volunteering their Marines for the same types of details?

Showing our appreciation for a community that is willing to stand outside our gates just to wave flags of support does not only rest on the shoulders of a handful of Marines. It is a responsibility of every member of this air station.

What Marine hasn’t experienced a 10- to 16-hour day, only to repeat the same thing the next day without so much as a “good job today, Marine?” We’ve all had this or something similar at one point, and it can make one feel forgotten and taken for granted.

We have the privilege of wearing a uniform that has been stained with the blood, sweat and tears of those before us. And even as an active-duty Marine, I am grateful for the ability to sleep relatively free of worry that my home is going to get stormed at night because of the literature I keep or the music I play.

Yes, we will continue to march on - kudos bestowed or not. Planes will continue to fly, and gear will still be ready for issue.

But on those occasions when we do have the opportunity to do so, why not look to those who have served over the past century for the inspiration to take on the tasks that may appear burdensome, but might mean everything to a hero who served long before our births.

One day we will all be part of that same forgotten generation who observes the men and women in uniform with pride - a generation that will hopefully have someone else’s hand to shake when we extend ours.



# ‘Kingdom of Heaven’: A tale of historic proportions

Review by Staff Sgt. Houston F. White Jr.

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Directed by Oscar-winner Ridley Scott, long known for his ability to create entire worlds within his films (Alien and Gladiator) and then summarily immerse his audience in them, “Kingdom of Heaven” is a two-hour and twenty five-minute epic that deals with the untamed and often bloody period of the 12th century religious Crusades in the Middle East.

The movie opens in 1184 France, where unassuming blacksmith Balian (played by British actor Orlando Bloom) finds himself in a spiritual crisis following the untimely death of his children and the alleged suicide of his wife.

Shortly thereafter, Balian receives a surprise visit from his previously estranged father, Godfrey of Ibelin (Liam Neeson) — a legendary warrior who has temporarily returned to his homeland after enduring the bloodshed of the Crusades in the East.

Presented with the offer to join Godfrey and his soldiers for the voyage back to Jerusalem to defend the sacred settlement, Balian initially balks until the infuriating urgings of a local antagonist provokes the son to commit murder before skipping town.

The irrational killing leads to Balian being pursued by medieval lawmen during his departure from Europe, who apparently have been trained to shoot first and ask questions last. Mayhem ensues and when the campfire smoke clears, the blacksmith-turned-fugitive is alive and, more importantly, on his way to the Middle East and a new life, albeit a few party members lighter.

Arriving to a relatively peaceful Jerusalem between the

second and third Crusades, Bloom and Neeson find that the delicate truce between the iron-masked Christian king Baldwin IV (Edward Norton) and Muslim ruler Saladin (Ghassan Massoud) is dangerously close to being broken by power-hungry fanatics on both sides.

After Saladin reluctantly gives in to the destructive desires of the blood-thirsty enclave in his midst, the scene is set for some of the most intense, no-holds-barred combat this side of the Jerry Springer Show.

Backed by a modest assembly of courageous knights, including the battle-scarred Tiberias (Jeremy Irons) and newly knighted Balian (who also inherits his father’s title of nobility), Baldwin IV is able to temporarily forestall the inevitable resumption of the decades-long holy war until he succumbs to the leprosy that has ravaged him since being a teen - leaving the door open for devious and delusional successor Guy de Lusignan (Martin Csokas) to step in and totally annihilate any chance for a peaceful conclusion.

Meanwhile, Saladin has amassed an army of 200,000 Muslim warriors in the areas surrounding Jerusalem in order to lay siege to and reclaim the city that has been under Christian reign for the past 100 years.

Near the climax of the film, Balian- experiences a critical epiphany: his noble purpose in life is to protect the religious outpost at any cost - even the risk of his own life.

Only then will the soul of his wife be able to enter the kingdom of heaven.

Scott’s masterful use of breathtaking location and scenery seamlessly transports moviegoers back through time to the ancient world, while extravagant battle scenes rivaling those found in similar movies, such as “Gladiator” and “Braveheart,” accurately hammer home the sheer



gore and brutality of war during the period.

Showing sensitivity to the current social/political climate and careful not to offend Muslims or Christians by portraying either religious group in too controversial a light, Scott is able to effortlessly mesh a loosely based historical account with an interesting enough storyline to make driving to the local theater to see the colossal action-drama well worth the trip. Essentially, Kingdom of Heaven does for swords and chain armor what Saturday Night Fever did for gold chains and leisure suits.



Miramar Movies

The Station Auditorium is located in Building 2242, and will be featuring the following movies free of charge. Outside food and drinks are not permitted. For more information, contact 577-4143 or log on to [www.mccsmiramar.com](http://www.mccsmiramar.com).

**Friday:**  
4:30 p.m. Finding Neverland (PG)  
6:45 p.m. Sin City (R)  
9:15 p.m. The Upside of Anger (R)

**Saturday:**  
6:30 p.m. Advanced showing, call for information  
8:45 p.m. Beauty Shop (PG-13)

**Sunday:**  
1:00 p.m. Miss Congeniality 2 (PG-13)  
6:30 p.m. The Ring Two (PG-13)

**Wednesday:**  
6:30 p.m. The Amityville Horror (R)

**Thursday:**  
2:00 p.m. Racing Stripes (PG)  
6:30 p.m. Sin City (R)

**MAG-11 memorial**

Marine Aircraft Group 11 will hold a memorial ceremony 2 p.m., May 26 at the Miramar Base Chapel for two pilots killed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Major John C. Spahr and Captain Kelley C. Hinz were killed May 2 when their F/A-18C Hornets from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323, MAG-11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, crashed in southcentral Iraq.

Religious Services

The Chaplain’s Office is located in Building 5632 and coordinates regularly-scheduled worship services. For the location and meeting schedules of religious activities, contact the Chaplain’s Office at 577-1333.

**Sunday:**  
9:30 a.m. Protestant worship service  
11 a.m. Roman Catholic Eucharist

**Wednesday:**  
7 p.m. Baptist service

**Monday-Friday:**  
11:30 a.m. Roman Catholic daily mass

**Jewish:**  
7 p.m. First Friday of the month MCRD  
7:30 p.m. Last Friday at Edson Range Chapel

**HMM-161 changes command**

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, will be hosting a change of command May 26 beginning at 2 p.m, in Hangar 6. Lieutenant Col. Robert M. Brassaw will replace Lt. Col. David W. Coffman.

**MWSS-373 changes command**

Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, Marine Wing Support Group 37, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, will be hosting a change of command May 27 beginning at 9:30 a.m. at Mills Park. Lieutenant Col. Freddie J. Blish will replace Lt. Col. Edward D. Banta.

**Charlie Daniels at Mills Park**

Country music legend Charlie Daniels and his band are scheduled to play for Miramar servicemembers 7 p.m. June 21 at Mills Park. Servicemembers in uniform will have stage front privileges. The band is visiting as part of the Spirit of America Tour sponsored by Marine Corps Community Services.

**30+ Basketball league**

June 7 will start the 30-years-old and over intramural basketball tournament. For more information, call the Sports Complex at (858) 577-1202 or visit the Marine Corps Community Services Web site at <http://www.mccsmiramar.com>.

Impounded Vehicles

The following vehicles have been impounded and need to be claimed by the owners. Towing fees average \$113, storage fees \$28 daily. For more information contact the Provost Marshal’s Office at 577-1461.

Vehicle:	License:	Vehicle:	License:
1989 Chevy Z24	CA/4TVY631	1994 Cadillac SLS	CA/3JFL323
2000 Ford Focus	CA/4JMZ536	1995 Nissan Sentra	CA/SZE4762
Mazda MX-6	FL/JPOJGS	1995 Mits. Eclipse	KY/907KKR
1987 Toyota Camry	CA/5CJZ685	1984 Linc. Limo	CA/3MGV444
Chrysler Shadow	MN/FPR718	1989 Ford Taurus	TX/T40PRC
1989 Toyota Camry	CA/4VI588Z	Unk. Trailer	CA/1VW1350



